NUMB. LXXXVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Mens agitat molem—— Virg.

Monday, June 22. 1713.

TO one who regards things with a Philoſophical Eye, and hath a Soul capable of being delighted with the Senſe that Truth and Knowledge prevail among Men, it muſt be a grateful Reflection to think that the ſublimeſt Truths, which among the Heathens only here and there one of brighter Parts and more Leiſure than ordinary could attain to, are now grown familiar to the meaneſt Inhabitants of theſe Nations.

Whence came this ſurpriſing Change, that Regions formerly inhabited by ignorant and ſavage People ſhould now outſhine Ancient *Greece*, and the other Eaſtern Countries, ſo renowned of old, in the moſt elevated Notions of Theology and Morality? Is it the effect of our own Parts and Induſtry? Have our common Mechanics more refined Underſtandings than the Ancient Philoſophers? It is owing to the God of Truth, who came down from Heaven, and condeſcended to be himſelf our Teacher. It is as we are *Chriſtians*, that we profeſs more excellent and Divine Truths than the reſt of Mankind.

If there be any of the *Free thinkers* who are not direct Atheiſts, Charity would incline one to believe them ignorant of what is here advanced. And it is for their Information that I write this Paper, the deſign of which is to compare the Ideas that Chriſtians entertain of the Being and Attributes of a God, with the groſs Notions of the Heathen World. Is it poſſible for the Mind of Man to conceive a more auguſt Idea of the Deity than is ſet forth in the Holy Scriptures? I ſhall throw together ſome Paſſages relating to this Subject, which I propoſe only as Philoſophical Sentiments, to be conſidered by a *Free-thinker*.

(Price Two Pence.)

'Tho' there be that are called Gods, yet to us 'there is but one God. He made the Heaven, and 'Heaven of Heavens, with all their Hoſt: the Earth 'and all things that are therein; the Seas and all 'that is therein; He ſaid, Let them be, and it was ſo. 'He hath ſtretched forth the Heavens. He hath 'founded the Earth, and hung it upon nothing. He 'hath ſhut up the Sea with Doors, and ſaid, Hither-'to ſhalt thou come and no farther, and here ſhall 'thy proud Waves be ſtaid. The Lord is an inviſible 'Spirit, in whom we live, and move, and have our 'Being. He is the Fountain of Life. He pre-'ſerveth Man and Beaſt. He giveth Food to all 'Fleſh. In his Hand is the Soul of every living 'thing, and the Breath of all Mankind. The Lord 'maketh poor and maketh rich. He bringeth low 'and lifteth up. He killeth and maketh alive. He 'woundeth and he healeth. By him Kings Reign, 'and Princes Decree Juſtice, and not a Sparrow 'falleth to the Ground without him. All Angels, 'Authorities and Powers are ſubject to him. He 'appointeth the Moon for Seaſons, and the Sun 'knoweth his going down. He thundreth with his 'Voice, and directeth it under the whole Heaven, 'and his Lightning unto the ends of the Earth. 'Fire and Hail, Snow and Vapour, Wind and 'Storm, fulfil his Word. The Lord is King for 'ever and ever, and his Dominion is an everlaſting 'Dominion. The Earth and the Heavens ſhall pe-'riſh, but thou O Lord remaineſt. They all ſhall 'wax old, as doth a Garment, and as a Veſture ſhalt 'thou fold them up, and they ſhall be changed; but 'thou art the ſame, and thy Years ſhall have no end. 'God is perfect in Knowledge; his Underſtanding 'is infinite. He is the Father of Lights. He look-'eth to the ends of the Earth, and ſeeth under the 'whole